(c) whether Air-India authorities have taken any action against the erring staff; and

(d) What steps the Air India management have taken to avoid such negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d) An old lady, who was accompanied by her brother, expired on board AI-III of 30-12-1990 on the sector Delhi-London. According to the information received, the lady was under treatment for liver cancer in Britain. There has been no negligence by Air India staff in the matter.

Increase in the prices of drugs

171. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the prices of Category I and II drugs; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Price revisions in respect of Category I and Category II drugs are a regular feature and are allowed on the parameters provided under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987.

Use of anti-lopsory vaccine

172. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICMR has allowed an unproven anti-leprosy vaccine to be tested on Indians;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian doctors have protested against this move; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) While some doctors have protested, by and large leprologists, medical scientists and members of the public have welcomed the trial. The field trial was initiated in Village Malaipattu by Justice Krishna Swamy, in the presence of several eminent leprologist and representatives of Public Health Directorate of Tamil Nadu.

Allocation of diesel for different States

173. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that diesel allocation to different states has been curtailed as a result of Gulf War;

(b) if so, what are the details of the cut effected in respect of different States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Central Government to enhance the allotment of diesel to the State at least by 10,000 kilo litre per month; and

(d) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A special release of 3000 KL HSD was made for Kerala in January 1991 due to the Sabrimala pilgrim season. A special release of 1100 KL HSD has been made for Kerala in February 1991 to meet requirements of the agriculture sector. These releases are over and above the normal entitlement for the State.

Use of Solar Energy in Remote Areas

174. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Solar energy brings life to Mizo village' which appeared in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 30th January, 1991, to the effect that the tribals of the remote Jampui hills in the tri-junction of Tripura-Mizoram-Bangladesh border have now access to electricity through a solar photovoltaic system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the solar energy at present is used only for entertainment purposes with the objective of integrating the tribals with the national mainstream;

(c) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to use solar power in minor irrigation/cooking purposes; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for providing electricity in remote areas through non-conventional sources of energy, especially in areas which are situated far away from the main grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Solar energy systems are presently being demonstrated and utilised for various appilcations like lighting, water pumping, community television, communications, railway signalling, water heating and cooking etc. Under the demonstration programme of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES), SPV water pumping systems are provided for minor irrigation and under Solar Thermal Extension Programme (STEP) of DNES, solar cookers are sold at subsidised price for cooking Department of Non-Conventional Energy sources is also implementing demonstration programme for electrification of remote villages/hamlets using solar photovolta power plants and biomass gasfires.

Supply of quality steam coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited

175. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a feature titled 'Battle for Survival' which appeared in the daily Financial Express, New Dehi, dated the 17th January, 1991 highlighting the plight of small scale pottery units in the capital on account of irreguar and short supply of steam coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that although the Railways agreed to supply 96 wagons in 1990 for movement of coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited, Eastern Coalfields did not supply even 50 per cent of the allotted coal; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the supply of quality steam coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited to avoid sickness in this small scale industry?